

**REMARKS**

On page 3, paragraph 5, of the Office Action, Examiner Sember stated that claims 4 (4/1) and 8 (8/6) would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By the above amendments, claim 4/1 has been effectively rewritten in independent form by canceling claim 4 and adding its limitation to the independent claim 1, and claim 8/1 has been effectively rewritten in independent form by canceling claim 8 and adding its limitation to the independent claim 6.

Therefore, the amended independent claims 1 and 6 now should be **allowable**.

The remaining dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9 are dependent on allowable claims, and thus, also now should be **allowable**.

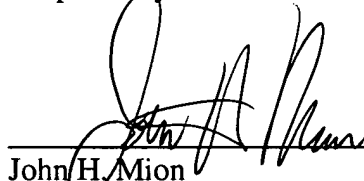
Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a) and to find the application to be in condition for allowance with all of **claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9**; however, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

**N.B.** Filed concurrently herewith are a "Change of Address of Inventor", a "Revocation and Power of Attorney and Appointment of New Attorneys by Inventor" and a "Petition (with fee) for Revival...under 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b)".

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/924,835

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Mion", is written over a horizontal line.

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